

Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the following amendments and remarks.

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Applicants hereby request a three-month extension of time extending the time for response from February 7, 2002 up to and including May 7, 2002. The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the required \$920 extension fee to Deposit Account No. 23-1703. Any other fee which may be due in connection with this Petition may likewise be charged.

Please amend the application as follows:

In the claims:

Replace claim 2 with the amended version set forth below.

2. (twice amended) An assay for detecting peptidoglycan synthesis, which comprises the steps of:

(1) incubating a reaction mixture comprising in aqueous medium a uridine(5'-)diphosphate (UDP)-N-acetylmuramylpentapeptide, radiolabelled UDP-N-acetyl glucosamine, a source of divalent metal ions, a source of undecaprenyl phosphate, a source of peptidoglycan, a source of translocase enzyme, a source of transferase enzyme, a source of transglycosylase enzyme, a source of transpeptidase enzyme and a source of lipid

pyrophosphorylase enzyme, under conditions suitable for peptidoglycan synthesis;

(2) adding a divalent metal ion chelator compound to the reaction mixture of step (1) to terminate peptidoglycan synthesis;

(3) adding lectin-coated beads impregnated with a fluorescer to the reaction mixture of step (2), which beads bind any radiolabelled peptidoglycan synthesized in step (1); and

(4) measuring light energy emitted by the fluorescer, which energy is indicative of the presence of radiolabelled peptidoglycan synthesized in step (1).